

crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2010

Refined elegance

The Ralph L. Gray
Alumni Center nears
completion this spring.



Plus...

Academic updates

Lion sports

Legacy Day

And more!

crossroads contents



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Photo of Ralph L. Gray, '75, outside the Alumni Center by Mike Gullett; cover illustration by Andrew Pavlovic, '11.



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

crossroads magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

crossroads is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Dear MSSU Alumni and Friends:



It is such an exciting time here on Missouri Southern's campus. With this issue, we are showcasing the renovation of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center, the future home to the MSSU Alumni Association. This center will give our organization a permanent home on campus that everyone will recognize. The beautiful white stucco home on the hill has served many areas over the years. Many departments benefitted throughout time by these hallowed walls: school of business, political science and communications. A recent board of governor or two said many meals and card games were shared in the Fountain Room, when it was a dining hall.

Though these walls have many stories to share, they will soon have new accounts of fun and friendship. The Alumni Center will be available for events and meetings for alumni and constituents. We look forward to welcoming back everyone to see how we have been able to restore and renew this beautiful home.

So many wonderful individuals deserve thanks for their generosity on this project. Please take a moment to review the article written by Becky Husky, '10. You are always welcome when you come home to Missouri Southern and the Alumni Center in the Mission Hills Mansion.

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86

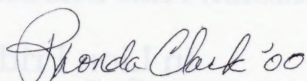
Lee Elliff Pound, '86
Alumni Director

As the saying goes, good things come in threes. This makes the third issue of **crossroads** since we conducted a major redo. If all the nice compliments from people on and off campus are an indication, it appears we are on the right track. Our goal, in conjunction with the Alumni Association, was to construct a consistent magazine to highlight Missouri Southern and its alumni and friends. Our writers have taken the lead to find compelling features and uncover interesting facts about alumni, faculty, staff and students.

This magazine wouldn't be possible without the dedicated students who write, design, edit and photograph the content. It's always hard to see that revolving door spin as our seniors graduate. In 2009, we said goodbye to two talented designers: Jessi Youngblood, '09, and Justin Cartwright, '09. Their graphic art expertise helped seal the new look for the magazine. This spring, we say best wishes to a longtime associate editor Becky Husky, '10, who is completing her third semester with the magazine. Her features have been professional-quality additions.

Keep letting us know how we are doing, as the kind words and comments are always welcome and help encourage and motivate our dedicated staff of students.

Warm regards,



Rhonda Clark, '00,
crossroads Editor,
Assistant Professor, Communication

crossroads Spring 2010 Staff Members:



Andrew Pavlovic, '11
Mass Communications



Becky Husky, '10
Mass Communications



Emily Mergen, '11
Mass Communications



Kristina Rutledge, '12
Graphic Arts



Heather Carlton, '11
Public Relations



Beth Wright, '11
Mass Communications

Spring welcomes time of transition

In this issue of Crossroads, I would like to pay special tribute to two individuals who have been primarily responsible for growing the Foundation over the last decade



at Missouri Southern State University.

They worked together marvelously as a team and established a solid foundation of excellence in management and fundraising that continues to reap rewards for Southern. They are Curt Betebenner and Dr. John Tiede. Both Curt and John were very welcoming as I took over as Curt's successor as executive director of the Foundation in November of last year.

In fact, Curt had committed to assisting me in learning the intricacies of the Foundation's financial management system and was in the office doing just that on the morning of the day he passed away. Curt's untimely death was a real shock to the Foundation and the MSSU community. We will miss his strong commitments to his country, his family and friends, the Foundation and to Southern. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with his wife, Elizabeth, and the entire family.

It is with regret that I also share with our readers that Dr. John Tiede announced his retirement from the Foundation as of the end of March 2010. Dr. Tiede has worked for the Founda-

tion since 2001 as the director of major and planned gifts and has raised millions of dollars for the Foundation and the benefit of MSSU.

He will be sorely missed for his expertise in major and planned giving, as well as the legal and management issues of the Foundation. Fortunately, Dr. Tiede will continue to be involved at MSSU as he will teach part-time at the Robert W. Plaster School of Business.

As we continue to transition at the Foundation and in our development program for MSSU, I'm pleased to announce that we hired two new development officers.

JoAnn (Hollis) Graffam, '87, returned to Missouri Southern as the development officer, major gifts. JoAnn is a Southern alumna and since 2008, served as the director of campaigns and major gifts at Lee Academy, Lee, Maine.

Michael Fontana is the development officer for annual giving-scholarships. Since 2006, Michael has worked as the development specialist-annual giving coordinator for Ozark Guidance Foundation in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It's been a pleasure to introduce these individuals to our campus community this spring.

Thanks again to all our alumni and friends who loyally support the mission of MSSU through the Foundation. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

— Dr. Mark Parsons, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

New faces at the Missouri Southern Foundation

JoAnn (Hollis) Graffam, '87

*Development officer,
major gifts*



Professional: Director, campaigns and major gifts, Lee Academy, Lee, Maine; executive director, Rutland Economic Development Corp., Rutland, Vermont; director of recruitment, Vermont Department of Economic Development.

Education: Master's, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University; bachelor's, Missouri Southern State University.

Contact: 417-625-3072

Michael Fontana

*Development officer,
annual giving,
scholarships*



Professional: Development specialist-annual giving coordinator, Ozark Guidance Foundation, Fayetteville, Arkansas; database reporter, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio; communications specialist, University of Cincinnati Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Education: Master's, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; bachelor's Charter Oak State College, New Britain, Connecticut.

Contact: 417-659-4436

Scholarship funds, expansion some of Tiede's contributions

After nearly a decade, Dr. John Tiede retired from the Missouri Southern Foundation March 17. The director of major gifts and planned giving accepted the position in 2001. Since then, he has been the backbone of growth and progression at Missouri Southern.



Tiede experienced many significant successes at the Foundation, including raising \$2.5 million for the Beimdiek Recreation Center and \$250,000 for the nursing program, and renovation of the Mansion House, future home of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association.

"I've worked very closely with Dr. Tiede since I came here in November," said Dr. Mark Parsons, Southern's new vice president for development and Foundation director. "He's been very helpful and insightful about how the Foundation is run."

"I'm sad to see him go, but happy for him at the same time. There will definitely be a gap at the Foundation without him. It's hard to replace someone like him — you just can't do it."

Tiede will remain at Southern as a part-time instructor in the Robert W. Plaster School of Business.

Tiede said giving Southern students opportunities to be able to afford a degree

were some of the most memorable moments of his career, as the Foundation secured endowments to fund scholarships.

He also worked closely with the late Foundation director, Curt Betebenner, who retired in fall 2009, just weeks before he died suddenly on November 13.

"I called him the spreadsheet guru," Tiede said. "He did an excellent job at keeping records."

Before moving to the Foundation, Tiede was university vice president, senior vice president of business affairs, and dean of the school of business. He received a bachelor's degree from Southwest Missouri University, an MBA from the University of Arkansas, and a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri. Tiede began his career in 1968 at Southern, teaching business courses. The university had just opened its new campus in 1967.

"It was just nice to be able to start somewhere fresh," he said. "Plus, it was close to home."

The Marionville, Missouri, native has seen the university undergo many transformations, including the doubling of the student population and the institution gaining university status. He anticipates more changes for Missouri Southern.

"We're poised to see substantial growth," he said. "I think we're maturing as a university."

— Heather Carlton, '11

University loses valued partner

Curt Betebenner, former director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, retired from that post in October 2009. He passed away suddenly on November 13, 2009.

Curt was named director of the Missouri Southern Foundation in April 1999. He joined Southern at the age of 46 after being named assistant foundation director in December 1998.



Curt graduated from Missouri Southern in 1975, with a bachelor's in business administration. He later earned a master's in business administration from Troy State University.

He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a colonel, and he served with NATO in Naples, Italy, as chief of air defense for the southern region. After retiring from the Air Force, Curt became a commercial pilot and also worked in the public school systems.

As a member of a longtime Jasper County family, Curt was reared in Alba, Missouri, and attended the Alba and Webb City schools.

His wife, Elizabeth, has been a full-time and adjunct faculty member in the Missouri Southern School of Education and is a speech pathologist.



Institute receives endowment for study abroad scholarship

The Institute of International Studies at Missouri Southern State University announced its first endowed award for study abroad.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the institute, said the newly created Donna Davis Browne Award for Study Abroad will provide a monetary grant each year to assist an MSSU student studying in another country.

"The children of Donna Browne wanted to recognize their mother's lifelong passion for travel and exploration of other societies," Stebbins said. "We are delighted that they decided to honor their mother in this way."

The award will help make study abroad more affordable for MSSU students and underscores the longstanding international mission of the university. Students interested in applying for the competitive award will submit essays about how they think the experience will enrich their undergraduate education and global outlook.

"In a time of budget cuts," Stebbins said, "an endowed award helps bring attention and support to international studies, one of our prize programs at MSSU. We hope the Browne family's generosity will inspire others to create similar endowments so that more students can afford to experience a semester in another part of the world."

The three children of Donna and



Caleb Gallemore, '06, who was named MSSU's Outstanding Graduate in 2006, stands outside the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. The international studies major from Seneca, spent his sophomore year at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. After graduating from MSSU, he received his master's degree in political science with a concentration in international relations at Ohio State University, where he is working on his Ph.D. in geography.
— Courtesy Photo

Leland Browne — Kate Browne, Becky Browne and Beau Browne — recently presented the award to their mother in celebration of her birthday.

"Mom is the world's best traveler," Becky Browne said.

"She reads and reads and makes careful plans so she can enjoy every minute. She and Dad have been to more than 40 countries and they are headed to India this spring."

Kate Browne said the award comple-

ments their mother's values and commitments. "The experience of study abroad opens hearts and minds to the vitality and value of life in other places," said Kate Browne, a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University.

"Studying abroad can nurture a lifelong curiosity about other societies, make clear the value of cultural diversity, and enrich the understanding of our place in a very big world."

— From staff reports

Ceremony recognizes Larry White Memorial Fund for TV

On February 4, 2010, a ceremony was held to unveil a plaque recognizing the establishment of the Larry White Memorial Fund through the Missouri Southern Foundation. Representatives from Joplin, Missouri, affiliates KOAM-TV and KFJX-TV were present, along with KGCS-TV and Southern representatives.

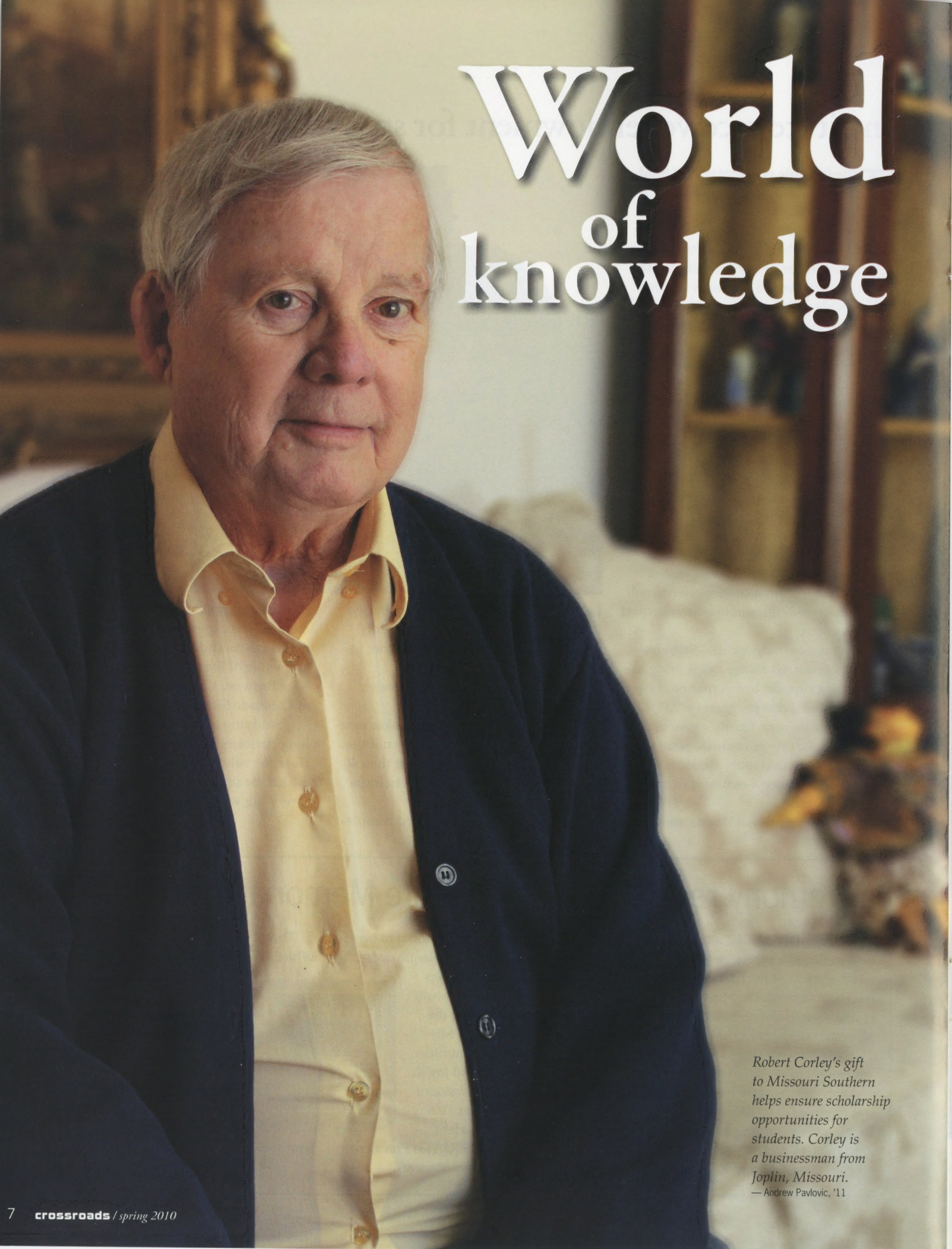
Larry White was a well-known broadcast engineer in southwest Missouri. He died while serving as chief engineer of KOAM-TV in 2008. After his death, officials at KOAM and KFJX contributed

funds to establish the memorial to benefit television at MSSU. The plaque dedicated to Larry White hangs on the KGCS master control room door. Speakers at the presentation included Missouri Southern Communication Department Head Jay R. Moorman, KOAM President and General Manager Danny Thomas, MSSU President Bruce Speck, and MSSU Vice President for Development Mark Parsons.



Thomas shared some insight into White's career and his impact on broadcasting. Speck and Parsons expressed appreciation from the university, stating that such financial support is critical during these tough economic times.

Individuals wishing to add to the memorial fund may contact the Missouri Southern Foundation at 417-625-9396.
— Judy Stiles, General Manager, KGCS



World of knowledge

*Robert Corley's gift
to Missouri Southern
helps ensure scholarship
opportunities for
students. Corley is
a businessman from
Joplin, Missouri.*

— Andrew Pavlovic, '11

Donor's generosity provides scholarships to help students complete their degrees.

In 1951, South Main Street became home to a children's store called the Duds Shop.

With steady business that pulled from the four-state area, the owner stayed in retail for 38 years. In 2009, he decided to give something back to the Missouri Southern community.

"I came to Joplin and started a business, and I felt I should keep my money here," said Robert Corley, resident and retired businessman.

Corley established an endowment that will fund scholarships for Southern students. Dr. John Tiede, director of major gifts and planned giving, said the seven-figure gift means a lot for the university.

"It was really nice of him to remember the students here at Missouri Southern," Tiede said.

"That's the biggest thing."

In recognition of Corley, the William Robert Corley Auditorium in Webster Hall has been named after him.

"We're very thankful for his gift, and it was very magnanimous of him," said University President Bruce Speck. "He has given a gift that's going to be a legacy."

Corley moved to Joplin in 1950, after serving in the Air Force and graduating with a degree in business administration from the University of Southern California.

Though he had no experience and no money to establish his own store, he was urged by family members to open a children's shop in downtown Joplin.

"I had to make it work because I had put someone else's money into it," Corley said. "I think I had a lot more guts than sense."

Bank officials told Corley his shop wouldn't last, but it became successful nonetheless.

"I recall, when we first opened, Easter was big business. All the little girls dressed up with straw hats, straw purses and little nylon gloves that sold for a dollar," Corley said. "And we had little Eton suits for boys."

After selling the Duds Shop in 1965, Corley opened the Attic, before selling it in 1972 to open Accents.

The Attic carried women's attire, while Accents sold gifts and collectibles. Corley left the retail business when he sold Accents in 1989.

Since retiring, Corley has extended his interests as an arts patron, which is how he first became acquainted with Missouri Southern. He has attended plays and art shows at the university and was involved in the former Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

"I started going to Missouri Southern when Dr. (Jay) Fields had New York tours," he said. "Then, when he quit, Gwen Hunt took over, and I've been going with her."

But perhaps Corley's biggest hobby has been traveling around the world. Corley, dressed in a simple blue sweater, yellow button-down shirt and jeans, one might not guess he has had many foreign adventures. But one look around his home, and it becomes obvious he is a man bursting with stories.

Dozens of Toby jugs line the soffit over his kitchen cabinets. All brought from England, the caricature jugs depict the faces of famous individuals, including Mark Twain, Robert E. Lee and Rip Van Winkle.

Corley's home is also decorated with mementos and knickknacks from places such as Singapore, The River Lea and Xi'an.

Lounging on a cozy sofa topped with white throw pillows and a little doll bought in Thailand, Corley shared the stories behind his various souvenirs.

"I've been on every continent except Antarctica," he said.

Corley celebrated his 89th birthday in January and remains an active traveler. He visited London for the sixth time in August 2009 and took a solo trip to Thailand before that.

One place Corley hasn't seen is Alaska, which he hopes to visit since he's "been everywhere else."

No matter where his travels take him, he won't forget the place that became his home nearly 60 years ago.

"Joplin's been good to me," he said. "I just think that Missouri Southern is a very important thing for Joplin." **C**

— Becky Husky, '10

New name

On January 6, 2009, a ceremony at Missouri Southern officially dedicated the William Robert Corley Auditorium in Webster Hall.



Robert Corley discusses the Toby jugs lining the soffit shelf in his kitchen. He collected the items from his many trips to England.
— Photo by Jessica Schreindl, '10



Corley has collected many artifacts from his travels around the world. The 89-year-old has been to every continent except Antarctica.
— Photo by Andrew Pavlovic, '11

Lion Tales

By Emily Mergen, '11

Erv: "It's a nice spendable winery that is warm and cozy."

LeAnn: "We are a hidden gem in the country."

The Langans

Missouri Southern alumni and owners of Keltol Winery

THE LANGANS

Who: Missouri Southern alumni, Erv Langan, business, 1977, and LeAnn Langan, computer and information science, 1985.

What: The Langans own Keltol Winery, 17705 County Road 260, Oronogo, Missouri.

Hometown: Erv is from Atchison, Kansas; LeAnn is from Soldotna, Alaska.

How the business started: In Germany, the Langans experienced the culture of winemaking and fell in love with it. After moving back to Missouri, they started the winery after purchasing some land and planting the grapes. In 2002, they added the actual winemaking. In 2005, their house was built. In 2006, the Retail Cottage was built.

Secret to Success:

Erv: "I would have to say persistence and determination, because it is important to stay with the fight and with the projects."

Greatest Challenge: In all forms, it's nature: weather, birds, diseases, animals, humidity, bugs.

Southern Memories:

Erv: "Being the first ROTC graduate for active duty; it was something new and an opportunity."

LeAnn: "Playing spades in the lounge and watching Rod Smith play football."

For More: Visit www.keltovineyard.com.

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales information to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.



Endowment ensures global learning

Nearly 2,500 Missouri Southern students have studied abroad since we started implementing the International Mission almost 15 years ago.



Our students have crisscrossed the world — from Chile to France, from Brazil to China, from Australia to Russia, from South Africa to Japan, and from the Fiji Islands to India.

MSSU has provided these students with study abroad grants ranging from \$750 to \$1,500 to help them afford the experience of a lifetime, an experience that enriched their education and broadened their view of the world.

But now, due to a looming statewide budget crisis, the funds that once helped MSSU students see the world may cease to exist. Our goal is to make all of our international programs self-supporting. That is why we are asking for your help in creating an endowment to help pay for our study abroad grants and the cultural activities we provide through the themed semesters.

Under its mission statement, MSSU is charged with serving as the cultural center of the area. Through the Canada Semester (fall 2009), the Germany Semester (fall 2008), the China Semester (fall 2007), the France Semester (fall 2006), and the Mexico Semester (fall 2005), numerous concerts, international films, and other cultural events have been provided for the community to enjoy — free of charge. Between our efforts and the classical music programming sponsored by Pro Musica, the four-state area is culturally rich.

We invite you to share your passion for study abroad or the cultural programs by making a monetary contribution to the International Mission Endowment. Any gift will help — \$25, \$100, \$1,000, or more. We will not actually spend your gift; rather, we will invest it and use the investment earnings to help fund our programs. This way, your contribution will be serving others for years to come.

In the meantime, you can anticipate a full range of cultural programs for the exciting fall 2010 Brazil Semester!

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

Director, Institute of International Studies

Contributors to MSSU International Mission Endowment

Tourist (\$10 to \$99)

David Adams
Jeff Billington, '99
Daria Claiborn
Jenna (Bass) Clark, '06
Vedita D. DeFreitas, '09
Phyllis DeTar, '99
Brenda Durbin, '00
Jenny Ertel, '98
Benjamin Ertel, '04
Marla Hinkle, '99
Harrison Kash
David & Virginia Lindsey
Virgil McCoy
Jersvy McKnight, '02
Henry Noll, '09
Lisa (Ball) Olney, '01
William & Carolyn Orbin
Brooke Pierce, '04
Michael & Shari Porte
Billy L. Rasbury, '05

Lance Sharrock, '03
Lorraine Whittington, '82
Walt Walker
Amanda Zook, '02

Sightseer (\$100 to \$199)

Rod Anderson, '76
Dr. Larry & Elizabeth Deffenbaugh
Sarah Godsey, '04
Matthew Godsey, '04
Jeff Hollingshead, '08
Dr. Charles McGinty
Nancy Perry, '88
Wilberto Ramos, '08
Dr. Stephen Smith
Richard Walter, '79
Dr. & Mrs. John Windle
Angela (Scott) Wyatt, '98

Wanderer (\$200 to \$299)

Bob, '42, & Bea Higgins

Carolyn Lowry, '09
Matthew Kunkel, '05
Stacey (Crouch) Kunkel, '05
Ron Mitchell, '71

Adventurer (\$300 to \$399)

Betty Harris
KiKi (Coffman) L'Italien, '04
Dr. Hish S. & Barbara Majzoub

Swashbuckler (\$500 to \$999)

Lisa Nelson
Cynthia H. Schwab

Globetrotter (\$1,000 & above)

Dr. John M. Cragin
Jeré G. Marcum, '01

Contributor listing is current as of March 5, 2010.

Want more information?

Please contact Dr. Chad Stebbins at stebbins-c@mssu.edu or 417-625-9736. You can donate online at <http://www.mssu.edu/foundation/onlinegift.htm> and restrict your gift by clicking the button and typing in International Mission Endowment.

Internships connect students, real world

To quote Ward Bryant, associate professor of communications, internships “offer an invaluable way to gain experience. Students can sample potential careers



and build their resumes. Internships provide on-the-job application of ... knowledge, skills and additional training to supplement their coursework.” Mr. Bryant’s words are a challenge

to every student to squeeze the maximum value from their educational experience.

I am not convinced, however, that most students who participate in internships plan for them as much as stumble into them while matriculating through their academic program. Part of this is that the range of options in internship placements is as varied as the students themselves — until students explore their majors, they often don’t know what opportunities are available.

For example, recent internships in the communications department have placed students with The Vacation Channel, Branson, Missouri; Kansas City Ballet; Avatar Studios, St. Louis; D Magazine, Dallas; WTTG-TV, Washington, D.C.; congressional offices in Washington, D.C.; Leggett & Platt; and Jimmy Buffet’s corporation, Margaritaville. The social science department has placed students in the U.S. Capitol; the United Nations in New York City; the African Union in Gambia; the Missouri Attorney General’s Office; Joplin Municipal Court; and more than 15 legislative offices in Jefferson City, Missouri. Several of these internships led to employment after graduation.

But maybe the best testimonial to the value of an internship was noted by Abby Peterson in her internship journal. During her flight back to the states after serving an internship at the Gisimbira Children’s Orphanage in Rwanda, an AIDS orphanage, Abby wrote:

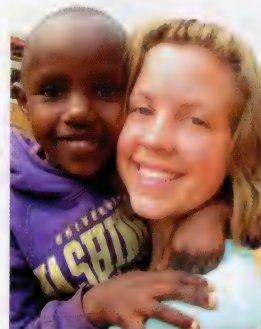
“I’m excited to get home and see everybody, but on the other hand, I’m going to miss Rwanda a lot. I’ll miss the people of Rwanda, the children I worked with, the loving accepting culture, and so much more. I can definitely say that Rwanda has forever changed me. I came into the trip expecting it would, but not in the way I imagined. I have always been aware of the materialistic and self-seeking ways that so many people (including myself) fall into by living in a better-off country... This

MISSOURI-AREA INTERNSHIPS MSSU STUDENTS HAVE SERVED:

(All companies in Joplin unless noted otherwise)

Communications:

- Zimmer Radio Group, Community Radio
- KODE-TV, KSN-TV, KOAM-TV, KFJX-TV
- Joplin Globe
- Carthage Press
- Neosho Daily News
- Children’s Miracle Network
- United Way of Southwest Mo.
- Joplin High School
- Freeman Health System
- St. John’s Regional Medical Center
- Joplin Museum Complex
- KY3 TV, Springfield
- Missouri Rehabilitation Center, Mt. Vernon



MSSU student Abby Peterson recently served an internship at Gisimbira Children’s Orphanage in Rwanda, Africa.

Social science:

- George Washington Carver Monument
- County Records Preservation Center, Carthage
- Central Plains Branch of the National Archives, Kansas City
- Political campaigns
- The Children’s Center
- Lafayette House
- Children’s Miracle Network
- Ozark Center’s Turn Around Ranch
- Missouri Division of Family Services
- Missouri Division of Youth Services
- Wilson Creek Battlefield, Republic
- Cerebral Palsy Center, Webb City

trip opened my eyes to what it’s like on the other end of the spectrum. I lived, felt, and breathed it.”

I would encourage any alumnus who is in a position to extend an internship to a student to contact any of the deans or department heads at Missouri Southern. The opportunity to facilitate a student’s educational experience is invaluable.

— Dr. Richard Miller, Dean
School of Arts and Sciences

Q&A

From being commissioned to create a painting for a U.S. president to working with Steven Spielberg, Matt Hall has had an amazing career since leaving Missouri Southern in 1986.

Q: How did the chance to do the painting for former President George W. Bush come about?

A: Well, the opportunity came about in 2008 when Valor Studios commissioned me to create a painting of the President's F-102 fighter he flew while in the Texas Air National Guard. The painting is titled "Into the Storm," as his fighter was an all weather interceptor during the Cold War era. It was an honor to work with his fellow pilots and to present the painting in the Oval Office with the men in attendance. The president was very gracious and I think happy to see his old friends from the Air National Guard.

Q: Where else has your art career taken you?

A: That's a long story. I started out as an illustrator for editorials, covers, advertisements and greeting cards. I soon became an art director-illustrator for television production with the transition to digital paint. That's when I got the call from DreamWorks. I thought it was one of my friends with a phone prank.

Q: What was it like to work for Steven Spielberg and DreamWorks?

A: Those were seven exciting years of my career. I was blessed to work with many very talented people. Be-



Above, Matt Hall, '86, presents the painting, "Into the Storm," to then-President George W. Bush. The commissioned artwork is one of several paintings Hall has created depicting military scenes. Below, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, comments on one of Hall's paintings, "Brothers in Arms." The piece is part of the prince's private collection. Hall's artwork is also available in print and can be found at the Valor Studios Web site, www.valorstudios.com. — Submitted photos



ing a kid from Carthage, Missouri, I never imagined I would end up out there illustrating for Steven's company. He's an incredibly creative person, and it was fascinating to watch him in his element as he brainstormed, coming up with great ideas effortlessly. His instincts for what will appeal to the masses are extraordinary.

Q: How did Missouri Southern prepare you for your career?

A: I got a solid foundation in art at a very affordable price. The illustration degree I wanted wasn't offered. To be honest, I didn't fully appreciate the education I got there until years later when I found myself in production and working in a managerial role. The art of giving critiques without destroying someone's self esteem — things you don't realize will come into play in your career. College is as much about setting and achieving goals or getting a job in time and on budget as it is about learning any given subject.

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring artists?

A: Set the highest standards for yourself and your work. Never stop learning. School will not end at graduation. New techniques and tools will be developed and keeping up with them will be a part of the job. Seek out your favorite artists and don't be afraid to ask them for advice. The best artists always made time for me and were very helpful. Take a business class or two.

Matt Hall received a bachelor of arts from Missouri Southern in 1986. He is a senior partner with Tinbuk2 Studios in Austin, Texas.

— Rhonda Clark, '00

Teachers learn language of diversity

In the school of education, we are very proud of a new program in the department of teacher education. Project S.P.E.A.K. (Speaking Proficiently Enables All Kids) is a



five-year National Professional Development Grant program, designed and administered through the Missouri Southern Teacher Education Department. The grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Education, pays for tuition and books for in-service teachers in the seven participating districts and pre-service students in MSSU Teacher Education to take the courses required to earn Missouri endorsement for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Because of the growing number of English language learners (ELLs) in area schools, there is a critical need for teachers with ESOL endorsement. The overall goal of the project is to prepare teachers to work with diverse student populations and to improve the academic achievement of ELLs. To achieve the overall goal, three specific goals were identified:

Goal No. 1: All courses in the MSSU pre-service and in-service training programs will be aligned with TESOL/NCATE teacher preparation standards and/or K-12 state standards and assessments, including English language proficiency standards and content standards.

Goal No. 2: 75 in-service teachers will earn ESOL/TESOL endorsement, and 150 teachers will participate in high-quality ESOL/TESOL professional development.

Goal No. 3: 100 percent of graduates/completers will be effective in the instructional setting with ELLs.

Dr. Al Cade, project director, said, "Project

PROJECT S.P.E.A.K.

Participating Districts: Carthage, Cassville, East Newton, Joplin, Monett, McDonald County, and Neosho

Participants: In the two-and-a-half years of the program's existence, 106 participants (46 pre-service, 60 in-service) have joined the project; 22 have completed the coursework for ESOL endorsement. Over the next two-and-a-half years, it is expected that 125 participants (50 pre-service, 75 in-service) will complete the ESOL coursework.

Spring 2010 Enrollment: 41 Participants, 173 Credit Hours

Professional Development Workshops: From spring 2008 to fall 2009, S.P.E.A.K. has sponsored 12 workshops with more than 600 total participants; co-sponsored four additional workshops; paid for 15 faculty to attend state and national conferences; hosted a workshop on diversity for the entire MSSU faculty; and this spring, five S.P.E.A.K. completers will present a workshop on ESOL strategies at the Southwest Center for Educational Excellence.

For more: Contact Dr. Al Cade, cade-a@mssu.edu, or Peggy Day, day-p@mssu.edu, or go online at www.mssu.edu/edu/project-speak/index.htm.

S.P.E.A.K. advances the university's mission of service to the southwest Missouri region. Project S.P.E.A.K. allows our department to meet the diverse educational needs of our K-12 partners while serving as a catalyst for the promotion of lifelong learning and professional development. Teachers of the 21st century will need to have a global perspective and be proficient in teaching diverse populations of students."

—Dr. Glenn Coltharp, Dean, School of Education

Participants attend a workshop presented by the Missouri Southern Teacher Education Department's Project S.P.E.A.K. The program helps southwest Missouri educators instruct students who are English language learners. A U.S. Department of Education grant funds the program.

— Courtesy photo



BUILDING^{on a} LEGACY

Day instills early ties to Lion pride for children of alumni.

Excited chatter filled the hallways of the Taylor Education building on February 6.

Children's faces lit up as they received Missouri Southern T-shirts and goody bags. Music blared from the classrooms. Volunteers enthusiastically greeted the youngsters.

These children were special to MSSU. Why? They are legacies.

A legacy is a child who has had one or more relative attend the university. These legacies have a special day devoted just to them.

"Legacy Day was established in 1997 to reach out to legacies and get them back on campus," said Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association.

"Our goal is for our legacies to attend fun and exciting events and eventually become part of our Lion family as students."

Between 80-100 legacies, ages 5-17, attend every year. Activities include interactive classes taught by student education majors as well as an invitation to a double-header Lion's basketball game in the evening. Ages 14-17 participate in teambuilding activities as well as a campus tour.

This is the second year Stephanie Heines, senior kinesiology major, has volunteered at the event.

"They get a lot of enjoyment out of it," Heines said.

The interactive classes consist of arts and crafts projects as well as games. One class created lion masks and marshmallow towers. Another class made breast cancer awareness ribbons and picture frames. Some legacies were even given the chance to have their pictures taken with the Southern Lion mascot.

"They get to take home something that reminds

them of MSSU," said Elisa Bryant, '04, coordinator of alumni relations.

Legacies not only leave with keepsakes but also lasting memories and a positive attitude about higher education.

"Being able to experience this type of atmosphere makes kids more open to the idea of college," Heines said.

Charity Schneickert, '03, a Southern alumna, believes Legacy Day has a positive impact on her children. Her sons, Justin and Keith, keep coming back to the event each year. "They talk about it throughout the year. They are always asking

when it is," Schneickert said. She likes for them to have the opportunity to get familiar with the campus.

Allen Jennings, '80, has been bringing his children, Grant and Gracie, to Legacy Day for years.

"They like to be a part of what's going on here," Jennings said.

The Alumni Association knows how important legacies are to the future of the institution.

"We continue to look for ways to keep in touch with our MSSU family members," Elliff Pound said.

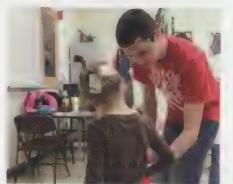
By exposing legacies to Southern traditions at a young age, they are instilled with Lion pride throughout their childhood.

"We want them to bleed green and gold," Bryant said.

— Heather Carlton, '11



"Our goal is for our legacies to attend fun and exciting events and eventually become part of our Lion family as students."



Left, Dmitri Lloyd colors a cup as the Lions mascot looks on at Legacy Day, which brought children of alumni to the MSSU campus February 6.

Photos by Andrew Pavlovic, '11



Surviving the global Great Recession

If one lives long enough, one is likely to see history repeat itself. For most of us, we are viewing a segment of history that only our parents and grandparents have seen.



For them, the global Great Depression is a distant memory, while today's global Great Recession is a reality. Eighty years ago, a changed economic climate forced change across all

industries and cultural values. Our Great Recession is having a similar impact. Businesses are finding ways to restructure in search of lower costs and higher profits. Customers are expecting more for less. Individuals face uncertainty in their investments, jobs and retirement plans. This is a shift in the pattern of everyone's lives.

Higher education is not immune. As a state supported entity, MSSU and The Robert W. Plaster School of Business must find a way to work through this challenge. State support is based on the revenue generated within the state's economy. When this suffers, funds available for higher education and all state programs are diminished. Cuts we now face are unprecedented in the history of MSSU. Across the United States, state governments are forced to cut support to education at a time when educational standards and achievement are increasing in our competitor countries in Southeast Asia, India and Europe.

So what role does the school of business play in this global Great Recession?

First, SOBA is a center for training students for the job market. Individuals who would normally move into the job market often look for training or retraining for job-ready skills. We offer degrees across the business disciplines, including accounting, finance, international business, management and marketing. We also part-

ner with Northwest Missouri State University on offering a high quality and convenient online MBA program. Our programs allow students to enhance their marketability by working with faculty and local employers through internships. Our online degree programs allow individuals to continue to work while upgrading skills to enhance employment opportunities.

Secondly, SOBA hosts three economic development centers. The Small Business and Technology Development Center works with local small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop business plans, enhance profitability and develop strategies for survival. Heartland Procurement Technical Assistance Center works with businesses to help them sell to local, state and federal purchasing systems. The Center for Entrepreneurship offers 15, one-hour courses on aspects of becoming an entrepreneur, helping create an entrepreneurial mind-set in our students.

Finally, SOBA offers the courses that allow our students and members of the public to sit for certification exams as a Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst, NASBITE Certified Global Business Professional, Certified Human Resource Professional, and Global Certified Human Resource Professional.

No one asks to live through a Great Depression or Great Recession, but these are the times we have. The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration and MSSU play an important role in helping our students understand these times. But we also play an important role in helping individuals and businesses make it through these troubled waters. We also want to ensure that our children do not have to live through these times in the future.

— Dr. Brad Kleindl, Dean

Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration
and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

Brian and Amy Carpenter, owners of I3 Technology Group, Joplin, Missouri, received the 2010 Rising Star of Entrepreneurship award from the Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers. MSSU Small Business & Technology Development Center consultants worked with the company to obtain funding and help streamline and expand its business operations.

— Kristina Rutledge, '12



Employment proof

Persistence and flexibility help job seekers navigate tough economic times.



Pam Hosp, '80, office manager for the Willcoxon Health Center, knows firsthand the challenges many face with a fluctuating job market. — Photo by Kristina Rutledge, '12

Almost anyone who visits the Willcoxon Health Center will walk out the door with an uplifted spirit after an affable encounter with the office manager and her warm demeanor. Pam Hosp, '80, can usually be found sitting at the reception window, scheduling appointments and working on patient files. Her friendly smile and gracious manner belie the fact that she once endured a trying time due to the troubled economy and job market.



The economy has recently been at an all-time low in the United States, and unemployment rates have skyrocketed. Tough times headline the news, and most people can relate with how jobless rates have affected them in one way or another. Hosp totally understands.

"On April 28, 2003, I lost my job at St. John's Regional Medical Center (in Joplin, Missouri)," said Hosp slowly and deep in thought, recalling the shock of the news. "I had been an employee with them for 27 years when they let me go."

After Hosp lost her job, her husband became unemployed the next week. "It was a real double-whammy when my husband lost his job," Hosp said. "Luckily, he works in construction and was able to find work within a couple of weeks."

She soon took three part-time jobs to keep up with the family's lifestyle.

Today's economic condition has many students fearing whether they will have a hard time finding a job post-graduation.

Aaron Cameron, a 2008 Southern business graduate, also had to contend with the economic downturn in the housing market. Cameron, a real estate agent for a large local company, was forced to pick up a part-time job as a sales associate at Fletcher Auto Group.

Hosp and Cameron faced the poor economy in a negative light, but another recent MSSU graduate used the bottomed-out job market to her advantage.

"I graduated last July but had been sending out my resume and looking for jobs since the spring semester," said Molly Weldon, '09, an MSSU marketing grad. "I didn't have any luck and decided that I wanted to take some time to travel and see different parts of the country. I found myself in Breckenridge, Colorado, working for a ski resort, which had nothing to do with my degree."

She later landed a job as a consultant with PDX, a pharmaceutical software company in Fort Worth, Texas.

Due to the unemployment rate in certain job markets, many students wonder if their degrees will be marketable and jobs will be available in the near future.

Economy experts predicted the U.S. recession would last into this year, and even graduates who are armed and ready with highly marketable degrees may fend poorly in the job market. According to a survey by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, two of the top 20 fastest-growing occupations require an economics or business-

related degree. Nursing, computer information science, engineering and education degrees also ranked among the most marketable, due to the number of jobs available in these fields and the starting salaries they offer.

Pat Hurley, director of career services at Missouri Southern, said environmental careers, such as jobs in food, water and safety services are also growing. Most of these jobs require a background in biological sciences.

Career services gives expert advice about careers and jobs available in Joplin and the surrounding community.

Career Services

Students and alumni can find:

- ▶ Career assessment for students
- ▶ Career advice
- ▶ Career fairs (two times a year)
- ▶ Southern Job Network, a database of available jobs, and students and alumni can post resumes.
- ▶ On-campus interviews with potential companies
- ▶ Mock interviews
- ▶ Resume and cover letter critiques

For more: Call 417-625-9343, or visit the Office of Career Services in Suite 207 of Spiva Library.

"We help students prepare resumes and help students learn to use the Southern Job Network, which is a university-based network where students can register and search for jobs," said Hurley.

She tells students not to get discouraged.

"It is important for students to not only look at the media and the media's statistics of the economy," Hurley said. "You only need one job, and they are out there."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average unemployment rate in Missouri rose from 6.1 percent in 2008 to 9.3 percent by the end of 2009. The national annual average unemployment rate was 9.3 percent, 3.5 percentage points higher than 2008. National unemployment reached 10.2 percent in October 2009, the highest rate since April 1983. But, students and soon-to-be

graduates should know that obtaining a college degree will always work in a person's favor.

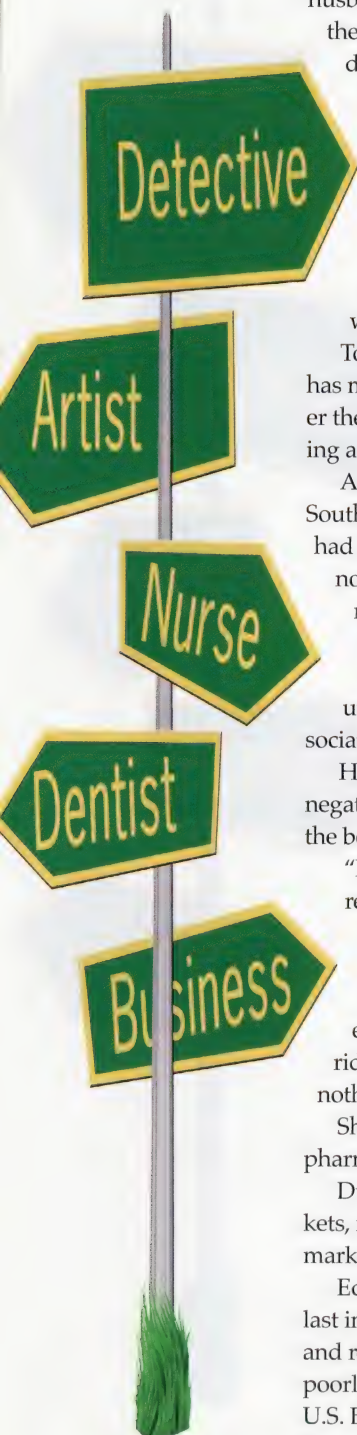
"I gained knowledge in college as a business major to use certain investment strategies, so when I lost my job, I was able to continue living how my family was accustomed," Hosp said.

After losing her job in 2003, Hosp became employed with the Joplin R-8 School District as a substitute teacher but still relied on her savings. She continued her search for a full-time job and eventually took a part-time job with Spiva Library at MSSU and another part-timer at Christ Community Church's Discovery School as a music teacher. While working these three jobs, the position at MSSU's health center became available. "I gladly accepted the position, and I love my job. I feel like this is where I am supposed to be," she said.

No matter how trying times may become or how discouraging the job market may seem, Hosp gently smiles and gives a piece of inspiring advice,

"Stay persistent, work hard, and always have faith," she said. **E**

— Lauren Williams, '10



Help safeguard your career path

More than 2.5 million strong, nurses make up the largest work force within the clinical health care industry, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



By 2018, it is projected that 581,500 additional nurses will be needed to meet the nation's health care demand. A shortage of this magnitude would be twice as large as any nursing shortage experienced in this country since the mid-1960s.

The Missouri Southern Department of Nursing, in its planning, has identified several ways to assist in meeting the nursing shortage in our area medical community.

The department of nursing is increasing its enrollment capacity in the bachelor of science in nursing pre-licensure program from 51 to 61 students beginning in fall 2010. The RN to BSN program will be increasing the numbers of seats in fall 2010. An accelerated BSN track is being developed and will be seeking approval by the Missouri Board of Nursing. The accelerated program will be a 14-month program offered on evenings and weekends for those individuals who have a bachelor's degree in another discipline but are looking at a career change. Our pre-licensure programs are accredited by the Missouri Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission.

A new cooperative master of science in nursing program was started a year ago in collaboration with the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education recently accredited this program. The master's program has two tracks — family nurse practitioner and nurse educator. A variety of teaching modalities are employed in these programs, including interactive televised classes, online coursework, and direct instruction from highly qualified faculty.

Demographics and national trends demonstrate that a career in nursing is recession-proof. Demand for nurses in health care will only increase in the future with the aging of a large baby boomer generation. The move to the university's new health sciences building this fall will facilitate future growth of the nurse education programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The increase in enrollment, addition of new programming and a new state-of-the-art facility is part of the university and department mission of being responsive to the region it serves. Consider a career in nursing if you love helping others, are hard working, have excellent attention to detail, are able to analyze data, are truly passionate about the human spirit, and really want to make a difference in the lives of others.

— Dr. Tia Strait, '85 & '93, Dean,
School of Technology



In this 2009 photo, Becca Smith, a junior nursing major at the time, receives instruction from Abby Henderson, a Freeman Health System certified nurse midwife at Ozark Obstetrics and Gynecology in Joplin, Missouri. In fall 2010, Missouri Southern will increase the number of students in its nursing program. — File photo



Alumni Center takes SHAPE

Spring brings change as renovations near completion for the new home of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

Arched doorways, fireplaces and crown molding are found throughout Missouri Southern's oldest facility. Adorned with numerous nooks, ornate tiled floors and an indoor fountain, the building is home to nearly 90 years of history.

The Mission Hills Mansion, with its stucco facade and red-tile roof, is a historic centerpiece of Southern's campus. Built in a Spanish motif by Lucius P. "Buck" Buchanan in the early 1920s, the Mansion is the oldest building on campus.

Before becoming home to the university, the property was a dairy farm owned by retired mine owner and executive Frank Wallower and his wife, Juanita Hammons Wallower. The Wallowers lived on the farm, raising Hereford cattle, until 1964 when the property was purchased for Joplin Junior College.

Now, nearly 50 years later, the Mansion is being restored and renamed the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center, after one of the project's lead donors. The MSSU Alumni Association raised approximately \$1.8 million for the renovation. The association has worked on the project since 2004, and once complete, the Alumni Association will move from the Hempen House on Duquesne Road into the Mansion.

"The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center would never have been possible without the support from all of the donors — from those who have been able to underwrite a room, to alumni and friends who have purchased bricks and to everyone who has made in-kind gifts," said Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director of the Alumni Association.

"We at the Alumni Association know how important our alumni and friends are, and we are excited to open our doors soon to welcome everyone back home to MSSU."

The patio bricks, purchased by more than 200 donors, will become part of the Board of Governors' Patio at the main entrance to the Mansion. Ralph L. Gray, who graduated from Southern in 1975, remembers his time as a student at the university.

"I had the record for the most parking tickets," he said. "I had a new Corvette at that time, and I was always late for class."



In particular, Gray is appreciative of the aid he received from his professors.

"Those people provided a lot of support, help and assistance to me," he said. "Dr. Larimore was extremely supportive. Bernie Johnson was tremendously supportive. All those people went way above and beyond a normal classroom to see to it that I enjoyed my experience there. They armed me with information to try to make me as successful as possible."

Dr. John Tiede, director of major gifts and planned giving, was one of Gray's instructors at Southern.

"You always knew he was going to be a success," Tiede said. "He's one of those guys who could charm you to death. He had a good personality, and he wasn't afraid to talk to people."

Tiede and Bob Harrington, '98, director of the physical plant, said the renovation project will attempt to restore the Mansion to its original footprint, the way it was during the 1940s, and make some necessary upgrades.



Helen Harutun estate started this project. Before her death in February 2008, Harutun toured the Mansion and was so excited upon seeing the front living room fireplace. It reminded her of the fireplace she and her late husband, Miney, had in their home. This room will display the plaque that dedicates her love for Miney as a gift to Missouri Southern.

Aside from housing offices for the alumni director and association staff, other rooms within the Mansion will be used for alumni functions. Details of the usage are still being completed.

"It's going to be, I think, a kind of crown jewel there at the school," Gray said. "I think it'll be a great opportunity for people to come in and entertain and get a sense of what the school's about. Hopefully, it's a great recruiting tool for the school, to bring not only future professors, but also alumni and for students to come in and get a real sense of history."

With renovations nearing completion, plans for a grand opening to showcase the center are set for August 2010.

"The Alumni Association has been working on this project since 2004, and we are so excited to see this come to fruition," Elliff Pound said. "With that, MSSU will have a beautiful and historic location where alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students can 'come home' on campus. We expect it to be an exciting addition to our campus, one rich in our tradition, and one in which everyone can be proud." **C**

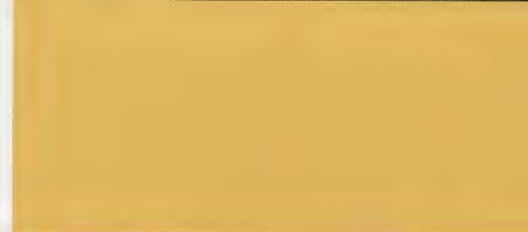
— Becky Husky, '10

On the exterior, the stucco and roof decking were replaced to make the building watertight. An adjoining structure that housed the old Learning Center, a later addition to the Mansion, was torn out, and a new main entrance took its place. The wall surrounding the Mansion was lowered to a 3-foot retaining wall, and parking will be available directly in front of the building's east main entrance.

Inside, new electrical and plumbing work has been completed. Also, energy-efficient windows designed to look just like the old ones were installed, and light fixtures have been restored or replaced with replicas. Carpet has been removed to reveal the facility's hardwood floors. Old restrooms are being restored and new restrooms have been added in a first-floor addition, to make the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Elliff Pound said a gift from the Mary

Photos on previous pages show the artist's rendering of the completed renovations, construction work on the exterior, and fish head on the fountain in the main house. Photo above, Alumni Director Lee Elliff Pound, '86, discusses the placement of wall plaques with (from left) Dr. Mark Parsons, vice president for development and Foundation executive director; JoAnn Graffam, '87, development officer; Dr. John Tiede, director of major gifts and planned giving; and Elisa Bryant, '04, alumni coordinator. Photo at right is of the Mansion in the 1960s.



The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center

Major donor underwriting:

The Kenneth & Betty Gray Room (fountain room): Named for Ralph L. Gray's parents

The Jimmy Couch Room (paneled room): Named for Dr. Jimmy Couch, former MSSU professor of engineering

The Bernie Johnson Room (dining room): Named for the late Bernie Johnson, '69, former MSSU professor of business

(The above rooms underwritten by Ralph L. Gray)



The Living Room: A plaque hangs above the fireplace in memory of Miney Harutun, the late Mary Helen Harutun's husband.

The Kitchen: Underwritten by Helen-Louise (Hough) Elliff, '49, in honor of the Hough, Elliff and Pound families.

Board of Governors Patio: Underwritten by MSSU Board of Governors who served during the final phase of fundraising for this project — Rod Anderson, '76; David Ansley, '68, '70; David Jones, '63; Dr. Charles McGinty; Elizabeth Deffenbaugh; Jane Wyman, '72; Dr. Douglas Brooks, '66; Dwight Douglas.

The Carl Finke Room (bedroom one): Underwritten by Mike Williams, '72.

The Robert Miller Room (bedroom two): Partially underwritten by Robert Miller's two sons.

The Alumni Room (largest room upstairs): Underwritten by former Alumni Board Members — Keith, '49, and Alice Adams; Dr. Floyd E. Belk, '48; Kenneth, '63, and Jan, '78, Bowman; Elisa Bryant, '04; Robert, '78, Cindy, Rob and Scott Corn; Joe, '79, and Linda, '78, Dean; Sara Belden Ditto, '56; Michael, '73, and Suzanne, '72, Gilpin; Robert A., '42, and Bernice Higgins; Jeff Johnson, '82; Paul, '75, and Carol Kern; Dr. Ronald L. Lankford, '71; Ron Mitchell, '71; Lee (Elliff) '86, Mike and Emma Pound; Will, '91, and Cheryl, '91, Scott, Jay and Abby Roderique; Jalon Pepmiller-Smith, '05; Missouri Rep. Marilyn Ruestman, '81; Gloria (Pedersen) Turner, '71; Clifford E. Wert, '75, and Pamela A., '75, Wert; Beverly, '89, and Jim Zerkel.

The Alumni Wall of Fame: Displays portraits of Outstanding Alumni in the Alumni Room, underwritten by Dr. Michael LaFerla, '93.

Kitchen appliances: Donated by Jon Anderson, '93, in honor of the Delta Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha and Metro Appliances and More.

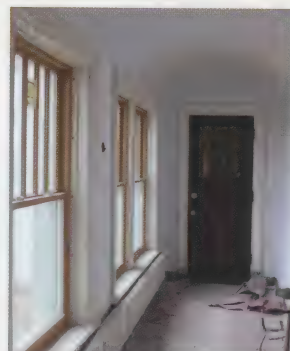
Board of Governors' Patio fireplace: Donated by Troy, '90, Jenny, '86, and Tristan Richards.

Dining Room furnishings: Partially supplied by the MSSU Staff Committee through the Mansion Cookbook project.

Interior design: By Madison Lane Interiors, Amber Sachetta and Pamela Mense, '05.

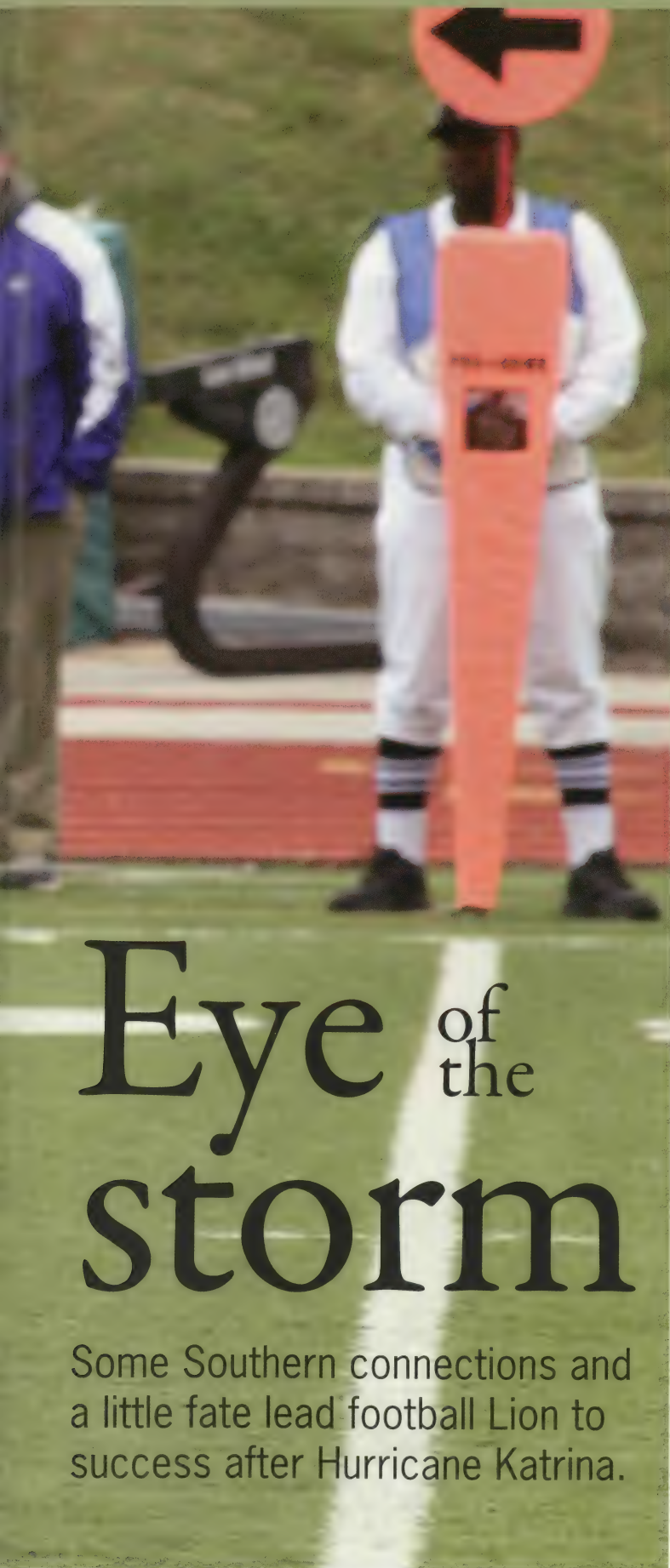
** Please note, the fall 2010 issue will feature the renovated center and list Alumni Courtyard and brick donors.*

Top, renovations continue in the foyer area on the south side of the main house. Above, a new entrance evolves on the east side of The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. At right, an early photo of the hallway leading from the garage to the patio room and the remodel process as the area receives an updated look during the renovation. — Ralph L. Gray photo by Mike Gullett; all others by Andrew Pavlovic, '11, or courtesy of Charles Nodler.





Lion quarterback Roland Thompson runs an option as a Truman State University defender zeroes in for a tackle on October 17, 2009, at Fred G. Hughes Stadium. — Photo by Cody Thorn, '09



Eye of the storm

Some Southern connections and a little fate lead football Lion to success after Hurricane Katrina.

Roland Thompson listened to a few words from Missouri Southern offensive coordinator Matt Karleskint before running out to the huddle. The group dispersed and a play was run for a few yards. Thompson waited in the huddle for a wide receiver to give him the next play.

The Lions went to their positions. This play, Thompson took the snap in a shotgun formation and stepped back. He pump-faked and let the ball sail down the field about 30 yards, where Landon Zerkel's arms went up and hauled in the pass. The Bulldogs tackled Zerkel as he crossed the goal line for a Southern touchdown.

Thompson received high fives and congrats on the way to the bench. That touchdown helped rally Missouri Southern to a win over Truman State in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association action on October 17, 2009.

It was Thompson's second win as the new starter for the Lions – not bad for No. 5.

And perhaps for those who know Thompson, it is fitting his number is the same as a memorable year in his life: 2005.

That's the year Thompson's life was turned upside down, part of the ramifications of one of the worst disasters in U.S. history — Hurricane Katrina.

Thompson was a senior in high school when Hurricane Katrina roared inland on August 29, 2005. Her winds were clocked at more than 175 miles per hour, a Category 5 storm according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A total of 1,836 people lost their lives due to the hurricane and subsequent flooding, and 705 were unaccounted for according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Thompson was at the Hyatt Regency in downtown New Orleans when the storm hit. His parents, Raymond and Toni, were part of the hotel's emergency team.

"I had no idea what was happening outside," Thompson said.

He and his family spent five days in the hotel without some of the basic necessities people take for granted – food and water.

"I have been through hurricanes before, but nothing like that one," Thompson said, who lived in the West Bank section of New Orleans, about five minutes from downtown. His high school, Brother Martin, was submerged in 15 feet of water.

After the storm, the family moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Thompson finished school at Plaquemine High

School. His family eventually settled in Colorado where his father found a job.

"I thought I had played my last game because you don't want to take anything for granted," Thompson said.

The Southern junior was highly recruited during high school pre-Katrina. Things went into a tailspin in the aftermath. With no cell or landline phones and no means for communication, he fell off the recruiting map, as big-time colleges moved on to prospects coaches could contact. That is the harsh reality of college recruiting.

Daryl Daye, a former Southern assistant coach and Louisiana native, found out about Thompson through his connections at Nicholls State, where he was head coach from 1999 to 2003.

"He was heavily recruited by Nicholls State," said Daye, who left Southern this spring for a coaching position with the NFL's Buffalo Bills. "He bounced around because of Katrina from New Orleans to Baton Rouge to Colorado. That isn't easy."

After those initial connections, head football coach Bart Tatum asked Thompson to come to Southern. He arrived on campus the week before the Lions 2006 summer camp.

"Roland is a team guy that values family and an unselfish attitude," Tatum said. "His life was ripped apart by the storm, but he was there for his family, and they were there for him."

That perseverance paid off for Thompson last fall after sophomore starter Collin Howard was sidelined with a knee injury. Thompson became Southern's starting quarterback and led the Lions to two of their three wins last season.

"It's awesome to see him have success," Daye said. "He knows how to deal with adversity. His training so far in life will reap benefits as he grows."

Post-Katrina, the Thompsons and other families never returned to live in New Orleans. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the population was 484,674, and it fell to 210,768 in 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In recent years, the Crescent City has slowly returned, as it was the nation's fastest growing city in 2008.

While Thompson has called Joplin home for the past three years, a part of New Orleans will always be with him.

"At first you saw (the damage on television), it seems surreal, like something you see in a movie," Thompson said.

"I went back home two years ago for Christmas and walking around you still see the damage that hasn't been picked up. It is still shocking, and it still sends chills down your spine. This really, really happened. It wasn't a dream. It's reality, and my hometown was completely destroyed.

"It's never going to be the same. After Hurricane Katrina, things have been worse since. It's something where you don't want to put yourself in a bad position. You always want to be in the best position to succeed.

"I will always call it home. I just don't see myself making a family and living there." **C**

— Cody Thorn, '09



Roland Thompson came to Southern after being recruited by former assistant coach Daryl Daye, a Louisiana native. Thompson lost touch with recruiters after Hurricane Katrina. — Photo by Andrew Pavlovic, '11



Thompson looks down field for a receiver in Southern's matchup with Truman State University on October 17, 2009, at Hughes Stadium. — Photo by Cody Thorn, '09

KATRINA'S IMPACT

700,000 People
acutely affected

183,000 Children
displaced

17,789 Louisiana
homeowners were
uninsured and suffered
major or total loss

484,674 People
in New Orleans pre-
Katrina

210,768 People in
New Orleans in 2006

311,853 People in
New Orleans in 2008,
making it the fastest
growing U.S. city that
year

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau,
Congressional Research
Service, Greater New Orleans
Community Data Center

H^{of success} Hoops

Winning records remain intact as men, women finish seasons.

Women's Basketball

Coach Maryann Mitts and her team raced to their ninth straight winning season with a 15-13 overall mark. The Lions finished as the sixth seed in the 2010 MIAA Post Season Tournament and faced off against Central Missouri for the second-straight season.

A year after defeating the Jennies in the first round, Central returned the favor and ended the Lions' season with a 77-67 loss in Kansas City. Southern was the first team to beat the previously undefeated Washburn Lady Blues and one of just three teams to defeat Washburn heading into regional play.

Senior guard Jolea Apon had one of the most memorable two-week runs in recent memory when the Springdale, Arkansas, native set the Missouri Southern record for 3-pointers in a game when she knocked down 11 against Missouri Western. That mark also tied the MIAA single-game record. She followed up that performance with eight against Pittsburg State and five at Emporia State. She finished her career by setting the MIAA Tournament single-game record with eight treys against Central Missouri. Jasmine Lovejoy, junior guard, was named second team All-MIAA, and Apon received honorable mention honors.

Men's Basketball

The Lions made their 12th-straight appearance in the MIAA Post Season Basketball Tournament — the 17th time for coach Robert Corn in his 21 seasons at Missouri Southern. The Lions finished as the sixth seed in the MIAA Tournament field, with a record of 17-11, and faced off with Nebraska-Omaha in the first round. The two teams had split every game in the short six-game series, and despite a furious late run from the Lions, UNO escaped with a first round 89-83 win.

Junior guard Skyler Bowlin was named to his second-straight All-MIAA team, this time picking up Defensive Player of the Year honors. He was named to the All-Defensive team and was a second-team All-MIAA selection along with sophomore Jason Adams. Adams finished third in the MIAA in scoring and fourth in rebounds, while Bowlin finished in the top three in five different MIAA statistical categories. Bowlin adds Defensive Player of the Year honors to a resume that included a Freshman of the Year honor in 2007-08.

— Justin Maskus, Sports Information Director



Top left, Jason Adams, sophomore guard, works the ball down the court in a Lions home game against Truman State University, December 2, 2009.

Above left, Skyler Bowlin, junior guard, looks for an open player against Truman.

Top right, Jolea Apon, senior guard, sets up a play in the December 2 contest.

Above right, Jasmine Lovejoy, junior guard, powers past her Truman State opponent.

— Photos by Mike Gullett



Left, Kari Hammerbacher digs the ball for another player during a volleyball match last fall at Missouri Southern.

Center, Kimi Shank was named an All-American in cross-country for MSSU.

Right, Stephanie Heines moves the ball during a fall 2009 soccer match.

It's a wrap ...

Fall athletes garner awards

Football (3-7)

The Missouri Southern football team finished its injury-riddled 2009 campaign 3-7, with wins over Emporia State, Truman and a thrilling come-from-behind win over then 12th ranked Missouri Western on the road. All-American linebacker Jared Brawner, coming off an outstanding 2008 campaign, broke his leg in the Lions' week two matchup at Washburn and was lost for the season. This came after junior defensive back Corderial Collier suffered a similar injury in week one at Harding and just like that, two of the Lions' biggest play-makers on defense were lost for the season. Stepping up on defense in the absence of Brawner and Collier was defensive end Jairius Jarvis, who finished the season with 9.5 sacks and was named to the All-MIAA and All-Region teams.

On offense, injuries were also prevalent. Sophomore quarterback Collin Howard began the year as Southern's starter under center. However, after only four weeks, Howard was lost to a knee injury and wouldn't return until the final game of the season against Fort Hays State.

In stepped junior Roland Thompson, who was thrust into the flames right away. His first career start was in the Sonic Miner's Bowl against border rival Pittsburg State. The Lions fought well in that game, and the defense held strong, but in the end, Pitt State handed Southern its

fourth loss on the season, 21-13.

Senior wide receiver Daniel Thompson pulled down an impressive 10 touchdowns in his first year as a starter and became just the second Lion in Southern history to achieve that feat (Rod Smith being the other). Senior wide receiver turned running back Johnny Johnson ran for 570 yards and seven scores in his first season toting the ball, highlighted by a senior day performance that saw him rack up 133 all-purpose yards to go along with four touchdowns.

Looking toward the future, freshman wide receiver Landon Zerkel dazzled fans at Fred G. Hughes Stadium in 2009 with an

assortment of exciting plays down the field and acrobatic catches, finishing the season as the Lions' No. 1 receiver with 44 catches for 641 yards and six touchdowns.

Volleyball (13-21)

The volleyball team once again had to make it through the best volleyball conference in Division II in 2009, and the team finished 13-21 overall. Southern had conference wins on the road against then No. 20 Truman State and No. 20 Nebraska-Omaha. Freshman outside hitter Renee Rheinecker earned All-MIAA second team honors after finishing the season with 416 kills. Fellow hitter Jeanna Feldmann, a junior, earned honorable mention for the Lions.

The Lions said goodbye to two seniors. Kari Hammerbacher finished her career with 1,505 digs, good for third all-time in Missouri Southern volleyball history, while Stefanie Williams finished with 134 kills, 358 digs and 29 aces.

Cross-country

The 2009 cross-country team picked up steam midway through the season. Starting with the MIAA/GLVC Challenge at Missouri S&T, the Lions won three straight events, including an MIAA and NCAA South-Central Regional Championship on the way to an 11th place finish at the 2009 NCAA Division II Nationals.

The team won its second regional title in the last three years and also won its eighth MIAA cross-country title in the last 10 years. Head coach Tom Rutledge was named MIAA and Regional Cross-Country

Left, Isaac Norman, senior wide receiver, logged 240 offensive yards last fall.

Center, Brennan Benkert placed 24th in the national cross-country meet.

Right, Toderick Hunt, senior running back, takes the ball down the field in a matchup against Truman State University last fall.



Coach of the Year by his peers. It was his fifth cross-country coach of the year award. Senior Brennan Benkert placed 24th at the national meet to earn All-American honors, while he and Dustin Dixon, Josh Mathis, Aki Nummela and Jarkko Jarvenpaa were named All-Region.

The 2009 women's cross-country team proved to be the best the program has ever had. The team completed the season with its fourth-straight MIAA title, third-straight NCAA Division II South-Central Regional title, and placed third in the Division II national meet in Evansville, Indiana. The Lions never lost to a Division II opponent throughout the season until

that final meet and set MIAA and NCAA regional records for lowest point total with 18 points in each event.

The Lions had four women named All-American, with junior Ashley Siler (third) and seniors Kimi Shank (fourth), Courtney Waltbillig (20th) and Ashley Bunch (25th).

Shank and head coach Patty Vavra picked up regional athlete and coach of the year awards, while the Lions had six named All-Region. Vavra earned her fifth MIAA Cross-Country Coach of the Year award.

Soccer

The MSSU women's soccer ended its

2009 campaign on a high note, with a 2-0 win over conference foe Emporia State. Senior forward Stephanie Heines led the Lions with four goals on the season to go along with one assist en route to earning honorable mention All-MIAA honors.

She was joined on the honorable mention team by fellow senior midfielder Jentri White and sophomore midfielder Michelle Dimza. Sophomore defender Audrey Copenhagen earned a second team nod. Randi Russell, a sophomore Joplin native, took over as the Lions' keeper this season and tallied 118 saves and a pair of shutouts.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information and Jesse Cordova, '10

Lions notebook



Leggett & Platt President and CEO David Haffner (left) and University President Bruce Speck display a commemorative 10th anniversary photo of the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center during halftime at a MSSU basketball game in January 2010.

Campus celebrates 10 years of Leggett & Platt Athletic Center

The \$7.5 million Leggett & Platt Athletic Center was dedicated on October 15, 1999. This past January, a ceremony was held to commemorate 10 years of events in the 80,000-square-foot facility.

The center has been home to Lions basketball, volleyball and indoor track since it opened. The center seats more than 3,200 fans and also houses the St. John's Track and Freeman Fitness Center.

SouthernFest '10 set for July at Downstream Casino Resort

SouthernFest '10 to benefit the MSSU Athletics Department will be held on

July 29-30. The Lion Pride Dinner-Auction will again be held at the fabulous Downstream Casino Resort's outdoor pavilion.

This year's dinner-auction will be on Thursday night, July 29. The dinner-auction will be limited to 350 attendees and tickets will include complimentary drinks, a delicious buffet and a live and silent auction.

The annual Rod Smith Green & Gold Golf Classic will be held the following day, July 30, at the beautiful Eagle Creek Golf Club. The golf tournament will have a morning and afternoon round and will be limited to 72 teams.

Tickets to the dinner-auction will be \$40, individual playing spots in the golf tournament are \$150, and various sponsorship levels exist for both. Infor-



Head women's basketball coach Maryann Mitts (left), Assistant Athletics Director Julie Wengert, '01, and head volleyball coach Chris Willis take a break from fundraising at SouthernFest '09.

mation on how to order tickets and secure sponsorships will be available at www.mssulions.com, the Southern Athletics Web site, later this spring.

SouthernFest '09 was a huge success, raising approximately \$40,000. The money was divided among the various athletic programs at Missouri Southern.

Fans flock to Missouri Southern for Cardinals Caravan visit

Green and gold gave way to a sea of red in Young Gymnasium on January 16, as St. Louis Cardinals baseball fans gathered for the 2010 St. Louis Cardinals Caravan visit.

Almost 1,000 fans filled the bleachers for a chance to hear from players and collect autographs.

Players in attendance included pitchers Kyle McClellan and Josh Kinney, as well as third baseman David Freese. Former Cardinals Al Hrabosky, Tom Pagnozzi and Kerry Robinson also participated. Cardinals broadcaster John Rooney served as emcee.

Missouri Southern's KGCS-TV co-hosted the event and provided live television coverage. Joplin Zimmer Radio stations also provided coverage.

KGCS serves as the television broadcast affiliate for the Cardinals, and Zimmer is the local radio affiliate.

— From staff reports



With his gray Converse shoes propped casually on the low coffee table, the self-proclaimed gypsy seemed to exude comfort.

Perhaps that's because he was in his element. On all sides, rows of vacant seats faced the theater's only occupant, who lounged on the yellow sofa in the center of the empty room.

"I live outside the box a little, and by a little, I mean a lot," said Matthew Campbell, junior theatre major, from his cozy seat in the Bud Walton Theatre.

Dressed in casual khaki shorts, a T-shirt and black-rimmed glasses, Campbell seemed like any other undergraduate on campus. But, by returning to school at the age of 27, he is considered a nontraditional student.

In fall 2007, the average age of Missouri Southern students was 26, according to College Portrait of Undergraduate Education, a study conducted by the Voluntary System of Accountability. The number of students age 25 and older was 35 percent.

Falling into the nontraditional category can pose some difficulties, but Campbell's experiences set him apart from his fellow undergraduates. As a professional actor turned student, he brings more than textbooks and pencils to class.

Campbell's first acting job, right out of high school, was an outdoor drama performed at Theatre West Virginia. During his 10-year career, he has been in 32 professional shows.

"I've done it all. I've worked with names and not-names. I've worked at huge theaters with \$2 million budgets, and I've worked at theaters where the budget was \$3,000," he said. "So, I've kind of gotten to do every level of theater — from commercial down to mom-and-pop kind of stuff."

Campbell's acting career began in a gypsy-type fashion, with a nine-month tour of the country, including visits to 32 states. Afterward, Campbell continued his nomadic lifestyle by moving to New York City to attend the Circle in the Square Theatre School.

Take two

Professional actor turned
nontraditional student
finds life's second act.



Matt Campbell, 27, returned to college after working as a professional actor.

— Photo by Andrew Pavlovic, '11

"I grew up in a small town, and so moving to New York was just this experience that was like a mecca. This is where dreams happen. This is where people's lives are changed in our business," said Campbell, who is originally from Princeton, West Virginia.

With a colorful background in his arsenal, Campbell returned to school to become a teacher. However, this is not his first time in college. Campbell attended Concord University in Athens, West Virginia, for two years right out of high school, before leaving to pursue an acting career. A connection Campbell made at Concord drew him to Missouri Southern. Two former mentors became his Southern instructors: Dr. James Lile, theatre department head, and Ann Lile, assistant professor of theatre.

"I'll be 20 times the teacher I am the performer, possibly," Campbell said. "I got very lucky with Jim and Ann that they taught me passion and they taught me what it's like to be dedicated to an art form. I want to pass that on to people, because no matter where it's at, what we do as artists is that we create art. We create



Southern theatre majors Devri Brock and Matt Campbell take instruction from Gerrie Ellen Johnston, theatre department faculty member, as they rehearse the choreography for Fiddler on the Roof January 26, 2010, in Taylor Auditorium's balcony lounge. — Photo by Beth Wright, '11

something that's bigger than us."

Though his unique experiences are a plus, such experiences can also isolate nontraditional students and make relating to others on a social level difficult.

"The stigma can be an issue. I don't think for me as much, because I consider myself kind of a cool guy," Campbell said, with his easygoing wit.

"Socially, I guess it's an issue because I don't have family here. It's the biggest divide because I don't really have the desire

to go out and go to a rave."

Campbell does value his education more this time around.

"I'm here to learn now, and I understand that, as opposed to when I was 17 or 18 years old," Campbell said. "Going into college, I felt obligated, and I didn't realize who I was doing it for at that point."

Without any gray sprinkled in his dark hair, Campbell is at the age where some wouldn't guess he is a nontraditional student. And even though his new role presents some difficulties, Campbell believes students from both ends of the spectrum can benefit from each other.

"I think traditional students can learn a lot from nontraditional students in the sense of work ethic," he said. "I think,

though, nontraditional students can learn a lot from traditional students on how to just chill out."

Perhaps the most important lesson Campbell has learned either in or out of the classroom is to live a life of no regrets. Regardless of age, he has one piece of advice for all to follow.

"If you're at a river and you feel like taking off your shoes and walking into the water, do it," he said. **E**

— Becky Husky, '10

Definition of nontrad includes other aspects besides age.

Nontraditional students are generally classified based on age. However, this doesn't necessarily provide an accurate description of the nontraditional student.

"It's interesting to define what nontraditional is, because it can be very different," said Kelly Wilson, '84, director of advising, counseling and testing services at Missouri Southern. "It could be an 18-year-old who has a child, so they're not the same 18-year-old as somebody else. They have different levels of responsibility."

High stressors, such as working full time, parenting and financial responsibilities, can leave some nontraditional students unable to dedicate as much energy to

their studies as most traditional students. A 27-year-old mother of four, Chasidee Hutchinson, senior elementary education major, balances school and family responsibilities on a daily basis.

"I personally have to maintain a home, my life and the lives of my children each day in addition to my school work," she said. "Then, throw a part-time job on top of all that, things get a little crazy at times."

Jalon Smith, a fourth-grade teacher at Fairview Elementary in Carthage, Missouri, attended Southern as a nontraditional student before graduating in 2005.

"I know a lot of nontraditional students who either gave up a job to return to

school, while their spouse worked full time, or they worked two different jobs at night so they could attend classes during the day," Smith said. "It can definitely be a juggling act."

Wilson said it is important for nontraditional students to take advantage of services offered on campus. These include career services, tutoring, and help with note and test taking. She also encourages these students to engage in campus activities to build leadership and social networking skills.

"The more you're willing to put into your experience, the most you're going to get out of it," Wilson said.

— Becky Husky, '10

Enrollment continues to increase

Figures on student numbers for the spring 2010 semester show more students are choosing Missouri Southern State University to continue their education.

"The great news is we have 341 more students, or a 6.7 percent increase, this spring compared to last year," said Dr. Delores Honey, assistant vice president of assessment and institutional research.

Total enrollment at Missouri Southern came to 5,431. Honey said figures show an increase of 4,028 total credit hours.

"This is our fourth straight semester of enrollment increases," she said. "We feel our entire campus has contributed to this overall success by focusing on our student success. Retention of students plays a big part in our sustained numbers."

Southern's enrollment also increased in spring, summer and fall of 2009.

"The success of all aspects of the First-Year Experience program with involvement campuswide has already shown very positive results," Honey said.

Information about the FYE program is available at <http://www.mssu.edu/fye/>.

MSSU announces Help Haiti project

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration continues fundraising efforts for "The Power of 2 Community Partnership for Haitian Relief."

"The number '2' is significant for a number of reasons," said Kim Gray, project manager for the MSSU-Haiti Partnership for Excellence in Accounting and Finance. "Two refers to a partnership, the difference two or more people can make when they work together toward a common goal."

A goal of \$12,000 has been set for the relief effort, with \$3,000 raised by April, primarily through donations from students and faculty. Proceeds go to Joplin Helps Haiti, a local organization engaged in on-the-ground efforts to provide assistance to victims of a devastating January 2010 earthquake. Seven Haitian students attend classes at Southern.

"If MSSU alumni were to participate in this fundraising effort, we could easily reach our goal," said Gray.

"To my knowledge, Joplin Helps Haiti is the only community organization in our region that is sending relief workers such as doctors, physical therapists, and other volunteers to Haiti in order to meet the im-



Andrew Pennington, president of the MSSU Student Alumni Association, kneels next to canned goods and nonperishable food items in the Hempen House. Missouri Southern faculty, staff and students collected 5,000 food items in December for delivery to Souls Harbor Mission, a homeless shelter in Joplin, Missouri. Southern's Public Relations Student Society of America and Catholic Campus Ministries also assisted with the project. — Photo by Rod Surber

mediate needs of the Haitian people."

Individuals or groups wishing to donate should make checks out to Haitian Relief Fund, with the notation "MSSU-Joplin Helps Haiti" in the memo line. Mail checks to: Kim Gray, in care of The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Missouri, 64801. Donations can be made at joplinhelpshaiti.com through Paypal. Indicate "MSSU" in the company line.

MSSU students dispense dental care

Missouri Southern dental hygiene students ended 2009 with 27 students in Joplin, nine students in Rolla and eight students in Sikeston participating in MO Healthy Smiles Preventive Services Program. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services sponsors the program.

PSP provides an evaluation of oral health in the community's children by implementing educational and prevention strategies and initiating referrals for dental services to those targeted with unmet dental needs. Southern's dental hygiene students assisted in annual oral screenings, basic oral hygiene instruction, fluoride varnish applications and referrals to a community network of dentists to provide unmet dental needs.

More than 1,900 children were served

by dental hygiene students through PSP in southwest Missouri, approximately 490 in central Missouri and approximately 270 in southeast Missouri.

These dental hygiene students also participated in health fairs, residential care facility rotations and oral health presentations, and distributed fliers and products to more than 1,500 individuals.

Forensics members sweep 2nd place

Missouri Southern's forensics squad competed in the Suffolk University and University of Florida swing Lincoln-Douglas debate tournaments in February in Boston, Massachusetts. The event featured 41 Lincoln Douglas competitors from 16 universities representing 11 states.

In varsity LD, Michael Johnson, junior education major from Ft. Scott, Kansas, and Valerie Melton, senior public relations major from Mt. Vernon, Missouri, qualified for elimination rounds. Johnson lost a close decision in the quarterfinal. Melton advanced to the semifinal round but was defeated on a 2-1 decision. Johnson and Melton were named fourth and second place individual speakers, respectively. The MOSO squad captured a second-place sweepstakes award, behind Lafayette University.

— Stephen E. Smith, '77

Studious commitment

Some couples find marriage and books a challenging but healthy mix.



"It takes a different level of maturity than the average college student to be able to meld two lives and learn to be dependent on each other instead of yourself."

Common Ground, the weekly Baptist Student Union worship service, was over. As the dim lights were brought up, they illuminated the sanctuary. On that fall 2009 evening, the smell of coffee and cookies faded, and the music died down.

Some BSU students left to attend a late-night Bible study. Some went to spend time with boyfriends or girlfriends.

For Malachi Blaxton, 22, senior management and international business major, and Angela Blaxton, 21, senior nursing major, it just meant the end of the night and going home.

The Blaxtons were married when they were 20 years old and both students at Missouri Southern. They met at the BSU and dated for eight months. The couple said being married while attending college has advantages and disadvantages. Benefits include spending more time together and having each other for support. Drawbacks are more financial and social.

"It doubles the financial strain," said Malachi, as he took his wife's hand.

"When it comes to supporting each other and studying for tests and stuff, it's easier," added Angela.

Malachi, who graduated in December 2009, and Angela agreed it takes a unique couple to handle married college life.

"It takes a different level of maturity than the average college student to be able to meld two lives and learn to be dependent on each other instead of yourself," Angela said. "It depends on the students and where they are. Some have proven to be capable while many have not."

Indeed, their summary of the benefits

and downsides are typical of research that studied marriage and college life.

Dr. Richard Miller, dean of the school of arts and sciences and professor of sociology at Missouri Southern, said the difficulty of being married and a student is that time is already restricted by work, school and enjoying a traditional family life.

"Adding a marriage requires an ad-



ditional time constraint," Miller said. "The benefit very much is that you have a support system — you have someone to help you through the difficult times, someone to talk to when things are going rough at school. It's kind of a pro and con."

Dependence and support are important to many couples. Matthew and Erica Johnson, who married in 2002, leaned on each other as Erica pursued her degree at Southern.

"You're supposed to marry your best friend," Erica said, "so you've got a support system and stability."

Missouri Southern's former student magazine featured the Johnsons' wedding in its fall 2002 issue. At the time of their marriage, Erica, a 2003 graduate, attended MSSU full time and worked full time, while her husband attended Ozark Technical College.

Seven years later, she works as a pharmaceutical representative, while her husband attends Southern to pursue a physical education degree.

Matthew said being married in school was tougher on his wife because she was commuting from their home in Miller, Missouri.

"She could come home and do her schoolwork, but it was tougher for her because she had to drive up there, be there at 8 o'clock, then go to work and then get back home," Matthew said.

However, the Johnsons, who now have three children, weren't concerned that it would hinder their education to be married and attend school.

"We had kind of talked about it, and we figured with what we were doing, we

could make it work out," Matthew said.

Financial hurdles are where the Blaxtons and Johnsons agree life could get difficult, as well as working on their marriages.

"Just wanting to work on your marriage as well as work on school is definitely a challenge," Erica said. "Newlywed life is great and everything, but you've got to work on it just like anything else. You've got to concentrate on two very important things in your life at once."

Like the Johnsons, the Blaxtons didn't think marriage would affect their schoolwork.

"Did you worry?" Malachi asked his wife.

"No," she said back with a smile.

Malachi and Angela carefully considered their decision to marry.

"A lot of people thought it was strange to get married when we were so young," said Malachi. "We got lectured by a lot of people ..."

"A lot of people," his wife interrupted.

"But, we did it anyway," he finished.

The Common Ground

crowd of Southern students started to disappear, and throughout their chatting, several stopped to tell the Blaxtons good night.

Malachi and Angela have several friends in the BSU, having met there in July 2007.

"We became really good friends and started dating

Oct. 9 (in 2007)," said Angela.

They thought they were a good match because of the strong qualities the other possessed. They both see a good sense of humor in each other.

Angela said Malachi has a lot of integ-

rity, protectiveness and chivalry. Malachi highlighted caring and understanding as some of Angela's best qualities.

The BSU was ready to turn the lights off in the sanctuary, and the Blaxtons prepared to go home. Their lives are different now.

"Everything changes," is how Angela summed up her life with her husband.

Miller said when both members of a married couple are students, it is beneficial because they understand the demands of school. The couple will have a happy marriage if they communicate well and balance school and family.

And for now, it seems the Blaxtons will keep doing just that.

"I not only love her, I love being around her," Malachi said. "That makes my life great."

Do they ever regret their decision? Malachi locked eyes with his wife.

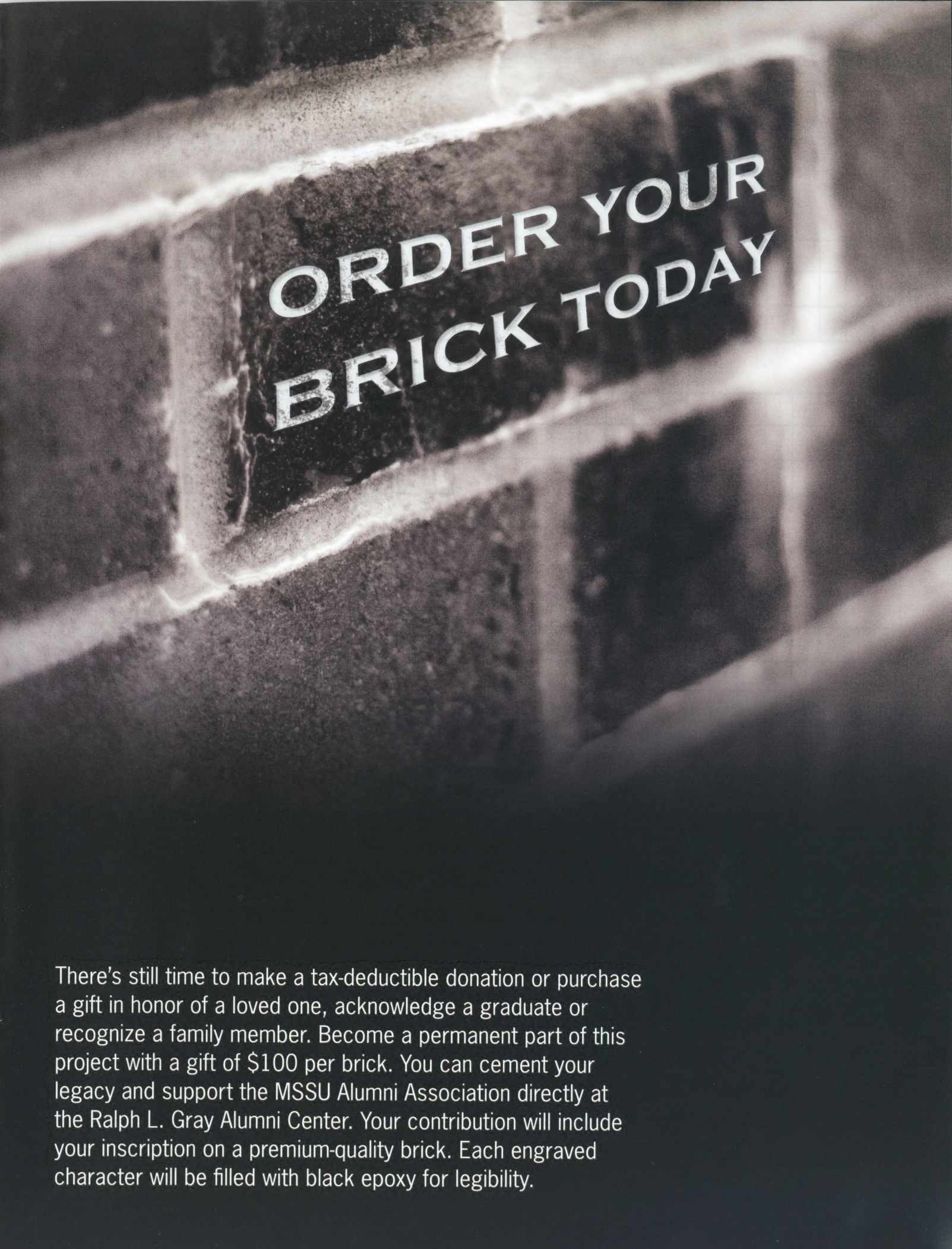
"Not at all," he said. **C**

— Luke Taylor, '11

*"You've got to
concentrate on two
very important
things in your life
at once."*



In a file photo from 2002, Erica (Mattlage), '03, and Matthew Johnson leave the church after their wedding ceremony on August 31, 2002. Erica was a student at Missouri Southern when the couple married. The Johnsons live in Miller, Missouri, and have two sons, Brady, 5, and Jaxon, 3, and their daughter Layni was born March 22, 2010. Their wedding and the challenges of married students was highlighted in the fall 2002 issue of Crossroads: The Magazine, Missouri Southern's former student publication. — File photo by Andy Tevis, '07; courtesy photo by Amy Pennington Photography



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Please fill out all fields:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

____ Please send me ____ cards to acknowledge my gift to forward to my honorees.

CLASSNOTES

71 **Sharon Wideman**, '71, is owner of The Oklahoma Spring Company.

75 **Dewayne Patton**, '75, is the general manager of the Northpark Mall in Joplin.

83 **David Rampey**, '83, is a firefighter with the Tulsa Fire Department in Oklahoma.

84 **Tonya Callaway**, '84, is a Clinical/Administrative Coordinator at UNT/Neurotherapy Lab.

86 **Randy Murawski**, '86, works for American Family Insurance, blogs for www.arrowheadaddict.com, and writes a monthly muskie fishing article for "Respoolin" magazine.

87 **Michael Carter**, '87, is the unit controller for the Home Furniture Components at Leggett & Platt Inc.

90 **David V. Stockton**, '90, is the Library Media Specialist at an Elementary school in Kansas.

92 **Steven Thaman**, '92, was promoted to plant controller with Dairy Farmers of America at Schulenburg, Texas.

Janet McCormick, '92, is the legal director for Safenet.

95 **Craig Vonder Haar**, '95, has been rewarded for his work by being selected the 2009 Missouri Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

97 **Sean J. Vanslyke**, '97, manages the community and public relations for the Ameren Illinois Utilities. Ameren's three

Illinois utilities cover 82 counties, which includes 1.2 million electric and 840,000 natural gas customers.

99 **Donald R. Simon**, '99, joined Genesh Inc., a leading area Burger King franchisee, as its general counsel to provide legal counsel on franchising issues, restaurant and land acquisitions, corporate affairs and employment matters.

05 **Teresa Smith**, '05, is the order edit-supervisor for Figi's gifts in Wisconsin.

— ClassNotes reports from
MSSU Alumni Association office



FUTURELIONS

Mike, '03 and Holly Klotz, welcomed Olivia into the world on February 28, 2009. She joins big sister, Brylee.

Damon and Angie, '08, Schuber, welcomed Mia into the world on March 13, 2009.

Brett, '00, and Kristi, '02, Schwab welcomed Kennady Elizabeth into the world on April 3, 2009.

Brandon and Brittanii, '08, Lehman, welcomed Talia into the world on April 4, 2009. She joins big brother, Trentyn.

Kevin and Sarah, '08, Greim welcomed Tegan Marie into the world on April 15, 2009.

Stan, '00, and Beth, '00, Wallace welcomed Benjamin Graham into the world on April 19, 2009.

INMEMORIAM

JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Eula Marie Campbell

December 30, 2009

Richard D. Renick

December 14, 2009

Marilyn Harding

February 22, 2010

1970s

Connie Robson, '73

December 30, 2009

Virginia Schooler, '70

February 25, 2010

1980s

Patricia Anne Eslinger, '85

January 7, 2010

Kelley Pierce, '85

August 29, 2009

Charlotte Scott, '85

September 5, 2009

2000s

David Edward Lane, '05

November 26, 2009

Bonnie Joan Baggerly, 78, of Joplin, Missouri, died March 2, 2010, at her home. She was born April 5, 1931, in Spring City, Mis-



souri, the daughter of the late William "Bill" and Inez (Russell) Proctor. Baggerly attended the Spring City School and remained an area resident her

entire life. She married Dick Baggerly on June 20, 1947, in Joplin, and from that union five children were born. Bonnie "The Baker" was well known for her cookies, cakes and rolls. In addition to baking at Missouri Southern State College for 19 years, she baked for St. John's Regional Medical Center, a number of area schools, and she owned and operated the Hickory House Café in Seneca, Missouri. She was a charter member of the Joplin Chapter of Sweet Adeline's.

Memoriam is current as of March 1, 2010. For additions in the next issue, please send an e-mail to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your information.

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Joplin, MO 64801
or via e-mail, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu
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3950 E. Newman Road - Joplin, MO

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SHOCKTOBER HOMECOMING 2010

October 29 and 30

Parents' Weekend
Football Game
Family Fun
Reunions and Awards Events
Tour The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center

